

in the Form Realm. Instead, they have the potential to attain it later on a higher level (i.e. the highest level) of the Form or Formless Realm.

Non returners who will proceed to the Form Realm and progress to a higher [level] can be classified into two types:

- a) Non-returners who progress to a higher [level] by eventually proceeding to the Not Low Level
- b) Non-returners who progress to a higher [level] by eventually proceeding to the Peak of Cyclic Existence Level

a) Non-returners who progress to a higher [level] by eventually proceeding to the Not Low Level

Non-returners who progress to a higher [level] by eventually proceeding to the Not Low Level ('og min mthar thug 'gro'i phyir mi 'ong gong 'pho ba) are non-returners of the Desire Realm who in this life newly attained the path of seeing and the result of non-returner.

According to Lama Tsongkhapa's **Stairway to a Clear Awareness** and **Golden Rosary**, they have also cultivated the five *alternating meditative concentrations* and thus the four concentrations. However, at some point during this life they will generate mundane attachment for the First Concentration Level which causes the degeneration of their fourth, second, and first concentrations as well as of their *alternating meditative concentrations*.

Thereafter, they will be reborn in the first sub-level of the First Concentration Level, the Brahma Type Level, during which they will be unable to achieve self-liberation. Yet, either during that life in the Brahma Type Level or a later life in the Form Realm they will again cultivate the four concentrations and the five *alternating meditative concentrations*. Eventually they will take rebirth in the seventeenth sub-level of the Form Realm, the Not Low Level and attain the result of foe-destroyer during the 'preceding state' of that life.

Non-returners who progress to a higher [level] by eventually proceeding to the Not Low Level can be further categorized into three types:

- (1) Non-returners who will proceed to the Form Realm and who are jumpers
- (2) Non-returners who will proceed to the Form Realm and who are half jumpers
- (3) Non-returners who will proceed to the Form Realm and transmigrate to all abodes

(1) Non-returners who will proceed to the Form Realm and who are jumpers

Non-returners who will proceed to the Form Realm and who are jumpers (gzugs su nyer 'gro phyir mi 'ong 'phar ba) are non-returners of the Desire Realm who in this life newly attained the path of seeing and the result of non-returner.

Also, they have cultivated the five *alternating meditative concentrations* and thus the four concentrations. Then, at some point during this life they will generate mundane attachment for the First Concentration Level which causes the degeneration of their first, second, and fourth concentrations as well as their five *alternating meditative concentrations*.

In their next life these non-returners will be reborn in the first sub-level of the First Concentration Level, the Brahma Type Level, during which they will be able to swiftly cultivate again the second, third, and fourth concentrations and the five *alternating meditative concentrations*, owing to their strong imprints of these meditative absorptions (since they had cultivated in particular the *alternating meditative concentrations* in their immediately preceding life). Subsequently they will take birth in the Not Low Level and attain the result of foe-destroyer during the 'preceding state' of that life.

(2) Non-returners who will proceed to the Form Realm and who are half jumpers

Non-returners who will proceed to the Form Realm and who are half jumpers (gzugs su nyer 'gro phyir mi 'ong phyed 'phar ba) are non-returners of the Desire Realm who in this life newly attained the path of seeing and the result of non-returner.

They have also cultivated the five *alternating meditative concentrations* and hence the four concentrations. Yet, since at some point during this life they will generate mundane attachment for the First Concentration Level their first, second, and fourth concentrations as well as their *alternating meditative concentration* will degenerate.

In their next life they will be born in the first of the seventeen sub-levels of the Form Realm, the Brahma Type Level, during which they are able to swiftly cultivate again the second, third, and fourth concentrations and one of the first three of the five *alternating meditative concentrations*, owing to their strong imprints of these meditative absorptions. Then they will take rebirth in one of the first three levels of the Five Pure Abodes (Not Great, Without Pain, or Excellent Appearance). Thereafter they will cultivate the remaining *alternating meditative concentrations* and take birth in the last of the seventeen sub-levels of the Form Realm, the Not Low Level, during the 'preceding state' of which they will attain the result of foe-destroyer.

(3) Non-returners who will proceed to the Form Realm and transmigrate to all abodes

Non-returners who will proceed to the Form Realm and transmigrate to all abodes (*gzugs su nyer 'gro phyir mi 'ong gnas thams cad du 'chi 'pho ba*) are non-returners of the Desire Realm who in this life newly attained the path of seeing and the result of non-returner.

As before, they also have cultivated the five *alternating meditative concentrations* and thus the four concentrations. Then, during this life they will generate mundane attachment for the First Concentration Level which causes the degeneration of their first, second, and fourth concentrations as well as their alternating meditative concentration.

After their death, they will gradually take birth in the sixteen different sub-levels of the Form Realm (with the exception of the Great Brahma Level) and attain the result of foe-destroyer during the 'preceding state' of the last sub-level of the Form Realm, the Not Low Level.

Please note that *non-returners who progress to a higher [level] by eventually proceeding to the Not Low Level* will attain the result of foe-destroyer during the 'preceding state' of one of the sixteen levels of the Form Realm.

Furthermore, according to Panchen Sonam Drakpa's **Decisive Analysis** they will attain the result of foe-destroyer at the latest in the Not Low Level. However, some may also attain it earlier during the life in one of the lower sub-levels of the Form Realm. Panchen Sonam Drakpa's **Decisive Analysis** mentions, for instance, *non-returner jumpers* who will attain self-liberation in the Brahma Type level, *non-returner half jumpers* who will achieve self-liberation in one of the first three levels of the Five Pure Abodes (Not Great, Without Pain, or Excellent Appearance), and *non-returners who transmigrate to all abodes* and who will achieve self-liberation in the second of the seventeen sub-levels, Reciting in Front of Brahma Level.

b) Non-returners who progress to a higher [level] by eventually proceeding to the Peak of Cyclic Existence Level

Non-returners who progress to a higher [level] by eventually proceeding to the Peak of Cyclic Existence Level (*srid rtse'i mthar thug 'gro'i phyir mi 'ong gong 'pho ba*) are non-returners of the Desire Realm who in this life newly attained the path of seeing and the result of non-returner. They also possess all eight meditative absorptions (i.e. the four concentrations and the four formless absorptions, which they have cultivated during this or any former life - but none of the five *alternating meditative concentrations*). However, during this life they will generate attachment for the First Concentration Level resulting in the degeneration of the second, third, and fourth concentration as well as the four formless absorptions.

Then in their next life they will be reborn in the Brahma Type Level and thereafter in the Reciting in Front of Brahma Level. During their life in the Reciting in Front of Brahma Level they will cultivate the second concentration again so that after their death, they will take birth in the Small Light Level, thereafter in the Limitless Level, and so forth. In this way, they will gradually take rebirth in the first twelve sub-levels of the Form Realm. However, since they will not cultivate any of the five *alternating meditative concentrations*, they will bypass rebirth in any of the Five Pure Abodes.

Instead, they will gradually be born in the four levels of the Formless Realm (the Infinite Space Level, the Infinite Consciousness Level, etc) and attain the result of foe-destroyer during the 'preceding state' of the last, the Peak of Cyclic Existence Level.

Non-returners who progress to a higher [level] by eventually proceeding to the Peak of Cyclic Existence Level have the potential to achieve self-liberation in the Peak of Cyclic Existence Level. Yet, some may be